

- C1  
Sub  
D9
1. (Amended) A method for determining an order of allocating electric vehicles for use depending on different charge levels of the vehicles, comprising the steps of:
    - having a user enter an expected distance of an intended trip;
    - selecting a group of vehicles based on vehicle location information, each vehicle having charge levels which are adequate for covering said expected distance of an intended trip; and
    - allocating a vehicle having a highest level of charge in the selected group.
  2. (Amended) A method for allocating one or more vehicles from fleet of electric powered vehicles to one or more users, wherein each vehicle has a state of charge (SOC) at any given time, the method comprising:
    - receiving a travel request from a user;
    - selecting a group of one or more vehicles from the fleet based on vehicle location information, where each selected vehicle has an SOC sufficient to meet the travel request from the user; and
    - allocating the vehicle having the highest SOC in the group for the user.
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- C2  
D9  
Contd
9. (Amended) A method for allocating one or more vehicles from a fleet of electric powered vehicles to one or more users, wherein each vehicle has a state of charge (SOC) at any given time, the method comprising:
    - providing a user – interface terminal at one or more ports;
    - receiving travel request information from a user at a user – interface terminal and communicating the travel request information to a computer;
    - operating the computer to select a group of one or more vehicles from the fleet based on vehicle location information, where each selected vehicle has an SOC sufficient to meet the travel request information from the user; and
    - operating the computer to allocate the vehicle in the group having the highest SOC for the user.
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- C3  
D9  
Contd
19. (Amended) A method for allocating one or more vehicles from a fleet of electric powered vehicles to one or more users, wherein each vehicle has a state of charge (SOC) at any given time and the rate at which any given vehicle within can be charged is dependent upon the SOC of the vehicle wherein a plot of the SOC of the vehicle being charged versus time defines a generally linear region at lower SOC levels and a nonlinear region at higher SOC levels, the method comprising:

receiving a travel request from a user;

selecting a group of one or more vehicles from the fleet based on vehicle location information, where each selected vehicle has a SOC sufficient to meet the travel request from the user; and

allocating the vehicle within the group having an SOC within the nonlinear region and, if no vehicles within the group have an SOC within the nonlinear region, then allocating the vehicle within the group having the highest SOC for the user.

20. (Amended) A vehicle allocation system for allocating one or more vehicles from a fleet of electric powered vehicles to one or more users, wherein each vehicle has a state of charge (SOC) at any given time, the vehicle allocation system comprising:

one or more ports at geographically remote locations relative to each other, each port having a user – interface terminal for receiving a travel request from a user;

a computer system coupled in communication with at least one user – interface terminal and programmed to respond to a travel request received from a user, for selecting a group of one or more vehicles from the fleet based on vehicle location information, where each selected vehicle has an SOC sufficient to meet the travel request from the user, said computer system being further programmed to allocate the vehicle having the highest SOC in the group for the user.

Please add the following new claims:

36. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the electric vehicle has a battery to provide a source of electrical power, and defines a state of charge at any given time, the method further comprising;

a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the state of charge of the associated vehicle;

a plurality of vehicle ports;

a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit associated with and installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle for transmitting state of charge information corresponding to a state of charge sensed by the sensor; and

central station coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication units, including a tracking system that provides said vehicle location information corresponding to the location of each vehicle and a computer system for

receiving state of charge information transmitted by said wireless communication unit and programmed to process state of charge information and vehicle location information, to define as vehicle search group, further programmed to process vehicle location information for a vehicle due to arrive at a given port, to provide an estimated time of arrival of the vehicle at that port and for including the vehicle in the vehicle search group, and to select and allocate vehicles from the vehicle search group to users based on state of charge information and vehicle location information.

37. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the electric vehicle has a battery to provide a source of electrical power, and defines a state of charge at any given time, the method further comprising;

a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the state of charge of the associated vehicle;

a plurality of vehicle ports;

a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit associated with and installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle for transmitting state of charge information corresponding to a state of charge sensed by the sensor; and

central station coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication units, including a tracking system that provides said vehicle location information corresponding to the location of each vehicle and a computer system for receiving state of charge information transmitted by said wireless communication unit and programmed to process state of charge information and vehicle location information, and programmed to include a vehicle in the vehicle search group if the vehicle is located at a charging facility at the port and has a charging time period which is due to expire within a predefined time period and to select and allocate vehicles from the vehicle search group to users based on the state of charge information and vehicle location information

38. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the electric vehicle has a battery to provide a source of electrical power, and defines a state of charge at any given time;

a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the state of charge of the associated vehicle;

a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit associated with and installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle

for transmitting state of charge information corresponding to a state of charge sensed by the sensor; and

central station coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication units, including a tracking system that provides said vehicle location information corresponding to the location of each vehicle and a computer system for receiving state of charge information transmitted by said wireless communication unit and programmed to process state of charge information and vehicle location information, and programmed to process vehicle location information and state of charge information for determining an charging order for a plurality of vehicles based on the state of charge of each vehicle in the plurality of vehicles, wherein said charging order is defined by the order of the state of charge of the vehicles, from the lowest state of charge to the highest state of charge.

39. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the electric vehicle has a battery to provide a source of electrical power, and defines a state of charge at any given time, the method further comprising;

a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the state of charge of the associated vehicle;

a plurality of vehicle ports;

a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit associated with and installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle for transmitting state of charge information corresponding to a state of charge sensed by the sensor; and

central station coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication units, including a tracking system that provides said vehicle location information corresponding to the location of each vehicle and a computer system for receiving state of charge information transmitted by said wireless communication unit and programmed to process state of charge information and vehicle location information, to define as vehicle search group, further programmed to process vehicle location information for a vehicle due to arrive at a given port, to provide an estimated time of arrival of the vehicle at that port and for including the vehicle in the vehicle search group, and to select and allocate vehicles from the vehicle search group to users based on state of charge information and vehicle location information.

40. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the electric vehicle has a battery to provide a source of electrical power, and defines a state of charge at any given time, the method further comprising;

a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the state of charge of the associated vehicle;

a plurality of vehicle ports;

a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit associated with and installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle for transmitting state of charge information corresponding to a state of charge sensed by the sensor; and

central station coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication units, including a tracking system that provides said vehicle location information corresponding to the location of each vehicle and a computer system for receiving state of charge information transmitted by said wireless communication unit and programmed to process state of charge information and vehicle location information, and programmed to include a vehicle in the vehicle search group if the vehicle is located at a charging facility at the port and has a charging time period which is due to expire within a predefined time period and to select and allocate vehicles from the vehicle search group to users based on the state of charge information and vehicle location information

41. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the electric vehicle has a battery to provide a source of electrical power, and defines a state of charge at any given time;

a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the state of charge of the associated vehicle;

a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit associated with and installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle for transmitting state of charge information corresponding to a state of charge sensed by the sensor; and

central station coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication units, including a tracking system that provides said vehicle location information corresponding to the location of each vehicle and a computer system for receiving state of charge information transmitted by said wireless communication unit and programmed to process state of charge information and vehicle location information, and

programmed to process vehicle location information and state of charge information for determining an charging order for a plurality of vehicles based on the state of charge of each vehicle in the plurality of vehicles, wherein said charging order is defined by the order of the state of charge of the vehicles, from the lowest state of charge to the highest state of charge.

41. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the electric vehicle has a battery to provide a source of electrical power, and defines a state of charge at any given time, the method further comprising;

a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the state of charge of the associated vehicle;

a plurality of vehicle ports;

a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit associated with and installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle for transmitting state of charge information corresponding to a state of charge sensed by the sensor; and

central station coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication units, including a tracking system that provides said vehicle location information corresponding to the location of each vehicle and a computer system for receiving state of charge information transmitted by said wireless communication unit and programmed to process state of charge information and vehicle location information, to define as vehicle search group, further programmed to process vehicle location information for a vehicle due to arrive at a given port, to provide an estimated time of arrival of the vehicle at that port and for including the vehicle in the vehicle search group, and to select and allocate vehicles from the vehicle search group to users based on state of charge information and vehicle location information.

42. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the electric vehicle has a battery to provide a source of electrical power, and defines a state of charge at any given time, the method further comprising;

a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the state of charge of the associated vehicle;

a plurality of vehicle ports;

a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit associated with and

installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle for transmitting state of charge information corresponding to a state of charge sensed by the sensor; and

central station coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication units, including a tracking system that provides said vehicle location information corresponding to the location of each vehicle and a computer system for receiving state of charge information transmitted by said wireless communication unit and programmed to process state of charge information and vehicle location information, and programmed to include a vehicle in the vehicle search group if the vehicle is located at a charging facility at the port and has a charging time period which is due to expire within a predefined time period and to select and allocate vehicles from the vehicle search group to users based on the state of charge information and vehicle location information

43. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the electric vehicle has a battery to provide a source of electrical power, and defines a state of charge at any given time;

a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the state of charge of the associated vehicle;

a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit associated with and installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle for transmitting state of charge information corresponding to a state of charge sensed by the sensor; and

central station coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication units, including a tracking system that provides said vehicle location information corresponding to the location of each vehicle and a computer system for receiving state of charge information transmitted by said wireless communication unit and programmed to process state of charge information and vehicle location information, and programmed to process vehicle location information and state of charge information for determining an charging order for a plurality of vehicles based on the state of charge of each vehicle in the plurality of vehicles, wherein said charging order is defined by the order of the state of charge of the vehicles, from the lowest state of charge to the highest state of charge.

44. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the electric vehicle has a battery to provide a source of electrical power, and defines a state of charge at any given time, the method

further comprising;

a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the state of charge of the associated vehicle;

a plurality of vehicle ports;

a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit associated with and installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle for transmitting state of charge information corresponding to a state of charge sensed by the sensor; and

central station coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication units, including a tracking system that provides said vehicle location information corresponding to the location of each vehicle and a computer system for receiving state of charge information transmitted by said wireless communication unit and programmed to process state of charge information and vehicle location information, to define as vehicle search group, further programmed to process vehicle location information for a vehicle due to arrive at a given port, to provide an estimated time of arrival of the vehicle at that port and for including the vehicle in the vehicle search group, and to select and allocate vehicles from the vehicle search group to users based on state of charge information and vehicle location information.

45. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the electric vehicle has a battery to provide a source of electrical power, and defines a state of charge at any given time, the method further comprising;

a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the state of charge of the associated vehicle;

a plurality of vehicle ports;

a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit associated with and installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle for transmitting state of charge information corresponding to a state of charge sensed by the sensor; and

central station coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication units, including a tracking system that provides said vehicle location information corresponding to the location of each vehicle and a computer system for receiving state of charge information transmitted by said wireless communication unit and



programmed to process state of charge information and vehicle location information, and programmed to include a vehicle in the vehicle search group if the vehicle is located at a charging facility at the port and has a charging time period which is due to expire within a predefined time period and to select and allocate vehicles from the vehicle search group to users based on the state of charge information and vehicle location information

46. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the electric vehicle has a battery to provide a source of electrical power, and defines a state of charge at any given time;

a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the state of charge of the associated vehicle;

a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit associated with and installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle for transmitting state of charge information corresponding to a state of charge sensed by the sensor; and

central station coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication units, including a tracking system that provides said vehicle location information corresponding to the location of each vehicle and a computer system for receiving state of charge information transmitted by said wireless communication unit and programmed to process state of charge information and vehicle location information, and programmed to process vehicle location information and state of charge information for determining an charging order for a plurality of vehicles based on the state of charge of each vehicle in the plurality of vehicles, wherein said charging order is defined by the order of the state of charge of the vehicles, from the lowest state of charge to the highest state of charge.

47. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the electric vehicle has a battery to provide a source of electrical power, and defines a state of charge at any given time, the method further comprising;

a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the state of charge of the associated vehicle;

a plurality of vehicle ports;

a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit associated with and installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle for transmitting state of charge information corresponding to a state of charge sensed by

the sensor; and

central station coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication units, including a tracking system that provides said vehicle location information corresponding to the location of each vehicle and a computer system for receiving state of charge information transmitted by said wireless communication unit and programmed to process state of charge information and vehicle location information, to define as vehicle search group, further programmed to process vehicle location information for a vehicle due to arrive at a given port, to provide an estimated time of arrival of the vehicle at that port and for including the vehicle in the vehicle search group, and to select and allocate vehicles from the vehicle search group to users based on state of charge information and vehicle location information.

48. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the electric vehicle has a battery to provide a source of electrical power, and defines a state of charge at any given time, the method further comprising;

a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the state of charge of the associated vehicle;

a plurality of vehicle ports;

a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit associated with and installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle for transmitting state of charge information corresponding to a state of charge sensed by the sensor; and

central station coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication units, including a tracking system that provides said vehicle location information corresponding to the location of each vehicle and a computer system for receiving state of charge information transmitted by said wireless communication unit and programmed to process state of charge information and vehicle location information, and programmed to include a vehicle in the vehicle search group if the vehicle is located at a charging facility at the port and has a charging time period which is due to expire within a predefined time period and to select and allocate vehicles from the vehicle search group to users based on the state of charge information and vehicle location information

49. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the electric vehicle has a battery to provide a source of electrical power, and defines a state of charge at any given time;

a sensor associated with and installed on each vehicle for sensing the state of charge of the associated vehicle;

a vehicle subsystem including a wireless communication unit associated with and installed on each vehicle and operatively coupled to the sensor on the associated vehicle for transmitting state of charge information corresponding to a state of charge sensed by the sensor; and

central station coupled in wireless communication with said wireless communication units, including a tracking system that provides said vehicle location information corresponding to the location of each vehicle and a computer system for receiving state of charge information transmitted by said wireless communication unit and programmed to process state of charge information and vehicle location information, and programmed to process vehicle location information and state of charge information for determining an charging order for a plurality of vehicles based on the state of charge of each vehicle in the plurality of vehicles, wherein said charging order is defined by the order of the state of charge of the vehicles, from the lowest state of charge to the highest state of charge.

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C4  
Concluded